

GENUINE and CURIOUS
M E M O I R S
Of the F A M O U S
Captain Thurot.

Written by the Reverend

JOHN FRANCIS DURAND.

With some of Monsieur THUROT's Original
Letters to that Gentleman, now in *England*.

To which is added,

A much more faithful and particular Account
than has hitherto been published, of his
Proceedings since his sailing from the
Coast of *France*, Oct. 18, 1759.

*He was a Man, take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his Like again.*

SHAKESPEAR.

L O N D O N.

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[Price One Shilling.]

MEMOIRS

OF THE FAMOUS

Captain Thurot.

Written by himself.

JOHN FRANCIS DURANT.

Who was of the French Revolution, and
later in the English, now in England.

By the same author.

A new and revised edition of the
first and second parts of the
Memoirs of Captain Thurot, with
an introduction by the author.

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GENUINE

AND

CURIOUS MEMOIRS, &c. &c.

OF all the affections of the human mind, there is not one, perhaps, which acts upon it with greater force, than curiosity; and this principle is never so powerfully excited in us, as when any person appears in the world, whose conduct, by some means or other, becomes the subject of public conversation.

FROM that moment, almost every man grows interested in his affairs, and if (as is often, nay, commonly the case) the birth and former life of the object of our enquiries, have happened to be obscure, it only makes us the more inquisitive, and eager to learn something, (no matter what) which in appearance, at least, may

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gratify

gratify the ardent desire we have to be acquainted with his private circumstances.

THIS spirit is extremely predominant in these our British Islands: not to mention the accounts which are constantly printed of the birth, parentage and education of every malefactor that is executed at Tyburn, which accounts are always bought up with avidity, and must therefore be highly acceptable to the public; I could give an hundred strange and very recent instances of the uncommon warmth with which we English pursue the kind of knowledge I am here speaking of.

Now there are a society of Auricular Biographers, who either through the vanity of being thought wiser than their neighbours, or through a willingness to gratify the demands of their friends, though at the expence of veracity, are always ready upon those occasions, to answer whatever questions are put to them; and as their chief fund is invention, they will tell you, the father, mother, country, occupation and religion of a person, though they know no more of him than of the Cham of Tartary; nay, some of these extempory historians will in the heat of their narratives, descend to the most minute particulars; and tell you, the most trifling and most secret transactions of a man's private life, by which lies and absurdities are heaped upon one another, till truth is almost impossible to be come at.

I do

I do not remember, that for a great while these genius's have exercised their talents of intelligence in a larger field than of late : Monsieur Thurot has been an happy subject for them, and our news-papers have been very faithful retailers of their several accounts.

In the course of a few weeks I have known him to be an Scotchman, an Englishman, and an Hibernian ; he was successively the young pretender, a reformed pirate, and a bastard of the blood royal of France ; and I make no doubt, that if he had kept the seas a little longer, he would in his turn have been the brother of the Grand Turk, or the nephew of the Pope of Rome, unless the news-papers had thought fit to give us broad hints, that he was those very great personages themselves in disguise.

BUT let us see, what we can gather from Thurot himself, from his behaviour I mean, to tell us what he was ; why that will inform us, which is all that the generality of the world knows of him, that he was one of the bravest, the most humane, and best accomplished commanders of the age in which he lived : that will inform us, that he was an honour to his country, though his country should be Lapland or the deserts of Arabia ; and that however meanly he might be defended, his actions have ennobled and made him illustrious. Perhaps his ancestors are

but obscure, yet posterity shall never forget him, while the merit of a soldier is in esteem.

THE person who is now employed in writing these papers was long and intimately acquainted with the extraordinary man of whom he is about to treat; several letters written with Thurot's own hand are at present lying before him, and it is out of regard to his memory, and as a mark of the friendship which he had for him while living, that he is prevailed upon to take up the pen, in order to give the public such an account of him, as from a strict intimacy with him might be supposed to come to his knowledge. This he is certain of, that he will alledge nothing but what he gathered from Thurot's own mouth, and in that case, nothing but what may well be taken for the closest matters of fact.

THE famous Captain Thurot who has of late taken up so much of the discourse of these Three Kingdoms, was neither an English, an Irish, nor a Scotchman, but was born at Boulogne in France, his father and mother being both natives of the same place. But he was of Irish extraction, his grandfather whose name was Farrel, and was a captain in the Irish army under King James the Second, going off with that prince from Ireland.

I re-

I remember that when Captain Thurot was here in England he shewed me a small gold buckle with four diamonds in it, which King James had given to his grandfather upon the following occasion :

WHEN his Majesty took water at ~~Dun-~~cannon-Fort in the county of Wexford in Ireland, in order to make the best of his way to France, just as he got into the boat, the wind being very high, his hat was blown into the water ; however such was his hurry to be gone, that he would not let his people delay to take it up again : upon which Captain Farrel presented his Majesty his hat, and the king when they came to the house, instead of returning it, ordered that Farrel should have one of his own royal beavers, (in the band of which was the before-mentioned buckle) saying at the same time, with his usual insensibility, that though he could not keep a crown by the help of the Irish, he had got a hat.

DURING King James the Second's life, and residence at St. Germain, Capt. Farrel was one of his household, either gentleman of the bed-chamber to his Majesty or the Queen ; and while he attended upon the abdicated monarch, he paid his address to Mademoiselle Thurot, whose uncle was a member of the parliament of Paris.

HE married her, but so great was the displeasure of all the young lady's friends,
that

that none of them would look upon her ; and three years after the death of his royal master, poor Farrel was at Boulogne, where he retired in hopes that some of his wife's relations living there would have more compassion than those he had left in the metropolis : but he was mistaken, for here he had no money to live upon but a very small pension which Queen Catherine allowed to all the discharged servants of the deceased King.

AT Boulogne our Thurot's father was born, but not till three months after his own father's death : nor did Madam Farrel herself outlive her husband much above a year ; so that the boy being taken by his mother's relations, on whoⁿ alone he was to hope for maintenance and preferment. When he grew up he went by their name, and there we may account for the puzzling difference between the names of Farrel and Thurot, and find some weak foundation for the many false reports that have gone about of late concerning Thurot's nation and quality.

OLD Thurot is now alive at Boulogne ; I cannot say that I know much of his circumstances, though I have often heard his son speak of him with much reverence and affection, and have seen letters from the old gentleman to him.

To the best of my knowledge Captain Thurot told me, his father was originally
bred

bred to the law ; but I am particularly sure of the circumstance of his having had three wives, the second of which was called Picard, a vintner's daughter ; and this was the mother of our Thurot.

SHE died in child-birth of him, and a remarkable accident happened at his christening, to which he in a great measure owed his late high fortune.

WHILE his father held him at the font to be made a member of the Christian Church, his mother was receiving the last office, that of sepulture without in the church-yard ; this had such an effect upon Thurot, who had been a very tender husband, that the tears streamed from his eyes in great abundance.

IT is the custom in Roman Catholic countries about Christmas, at which season of the year this happened, for ladies of the first distinction to go into churches and offer themselves as sponsors, for whatever children are brought to be baptized.

ONE madam Tallard a woman of great rank and fortune, was now standing for little Thurot, and observing the extreme agony in which the father of the child appeared, inquired what was the cause of it ; the priest informed her.

SHE was touched with so melancholy an occasion, it put her upon asking some more particulars about the family of Thurot ; she made him a handsome present,
and

and desired, that if the boy should live till she returned again into those parts, he might be sent to see her. During Captain Thurot's infancy, and till he was a well grown lad, he received many instances of friendship from his kind godmother, but it was not till within these very few years that he experienced those very essential ones from her family, which to him however ended only in glory.

I have already said, that Thurot's grandfather was an Irishman, when our hero was about fifteen years of age, one Farrel came to Boulogne, who by some means or other got acquainted with Old Thurot, and learning the origin of the family claimed relationship.

THIS man was the commander of a vessel, and used to smuggle goods, he assured Old Thurot, that the house of the O'Farrels was still a flourishing house in Connaught, and offered, if he would let his young son go over with him to make his fortune.

THE lad was extremely sprightly, uncommonly beautiful, and of a great courage, he had been taught to read and write, which was all his father could do for him, besides, he was now married to another wife, and had a growing family, so that he was glad to provide for him at any rate; therefore without much reluctance, accepted of Captain Farrel's proposals.

YOUNG Thurot was equipped at the expence of his Irish cousin, and set out with
a light

a light heart and a thin pair of breeches : they were bound for Limerick in the West of Ireland, but stopp'd at the Isle of Man upon some business of the smugglers. And here young Thurot taking some disgust, refused to follow his cousin O'Farrel any farther.

IT is a much easier matter to get a footing in the Isle of Man, than to get off from it ; and after Farrel had sailed away, which he did in a passion, as we may well suppose, with Thurot, it was some time before a ship bound for France came into the port ; so that our young adventurer was obliged to look about him for support. I have said before he was a handsome, spirited lad ; a gentleman of Anglesey took a fancy to him, and he entered into his service.

THIS person was old in the trade of running goods, and had several small vessels continually on the pass between the Isle of Man and Ireland laden with contraband commodities ; with these he frequently sent Thurot ; and once stationed him for eleven months at Carlingford in Ireland, in order that he might (being lodged with a factor of his) manage some affairs of the smuggling kind that were of more than ordinary consequence, and which he was extremely expert in.

IN this place he acquired his first knowledge of the English tongue ; and in the end he determined, instead of returning to the

Isle of Man, to go to Dublin and see whether he could not learn some certain tidings of those relations of his, about whom he had so often heard. He seldom formed a resolution without putting it in practice; and accordingly set out for Dublin, with, as he told me himself, about eleven shillings in his pocket.

WHETHER Thurot ever met with any of his Irish kinsfolk, or whether if he did, he ^{received} renewed any kindness and entertainment from them, I cannot say; but he was in very straight circumstances in Dublin, and reduced so low, that he was glad to accept of an offer to enter into a great family, which he did in quality of valet de chambre to the lady of Lord B——, persons of vast fortune and alliances in the kingdom of Ireland.

HERE he lived near two years, going by the name of Dauphine, and might perhaps have lived much longer, but for a most unhappy affair which happened in the family, and which made a great noise in the world. Thurot was in high favour with his mistress, and was suspected of being her confidant: but he was a man of too nice notions, and had the punctilios of honour in too much regard to be of service to any one in such a sort of business. Be that as it will, he was dismissed his lordship's service, as was at the same time my lady's woman, with whom young Thurot was on very good terms.

THUROT

THUROT was of a warm temper, especially upon any thing like an insult ; and Lord B—— having laid things to his charge of which he knew himself innocent, he was not backward in speaking his mind, perhaps too freely of his lordship ; which soon made Dublin a very improper place for him to remain in.

His friend, the waiting woman, whose name I think was Lynch, was soon after her dismissal from the family of Lord B—— received into that of the Earl of A——, who had a great estate in the North of Ireland, and going down thither the following summer, Thurot who was of a roving disposition, made no difficulty to follow his *quondam* fellow-servant, though in no capacity or business.

IN this place he made himself acceptable to many gentlemen, and to the Earl of A——, by his skill in sporting ; but his situation being near the sea, and the opposite coast of Scotland favouring the cursed trade of smuggling, in which he was a much greater master than in cocking or hunting, he soon got in with a gang of those people.

HE was of the most obliging and generous disposition that I ever knew any man in my life, and as he was young and sprightly and of a warm constitution, it is in vain to deny that he had many intreagues, in which he made no scruple of bestowing upon his

favourites a piece of India stuff for a gown, a yard or two of muslin, a pound of tea, and such things ; which by degrees getting wind, other women of the better sort applied to him for some of these things in the merchantile way.

THE usual method of the smuggler was never to sell any of these things in the North, but transport them to Dublin on little carrs with butter, and such country merchandize ; by which means they escaped the danger of a familiar and open trade, and escaped the vigilance of the custom-house officers.

THUROT however could not withstand the sollicitation of the ladies, and used frequently to sell them tea, china, chocolate, India goods, and I am afraid brandy at an easy rate. This trade continued some months, till one of his customers being more rapacious than the rest, laid out fifty pounds at once with him, in order to get as much as she could buy from the fair trader for tripple the money ; by which means her house was made a warehouse, and the excise people getting the scent of it, came to search, found the goods upon her, and made a seizure of every one of them.

THUROT was instantly blown ; the honest grateful gentlewoman told whence she had her commodities, and in three nights after, the officers having laid their scheme fell in
with

with some boats which were laden with run goods, four of them fell into their hands, a rich booty ; but the vessel in which was our Captain and which was lighter laden than the rest had the good fortune to make the coast of Scotland.

AND now a new scene opened itself ; the commodities in the boat were worth about two hundred pounds ; but how to get them sold was the matter. Thurot with his accomplices deposited them in safe places, and it was proposed that two of them, who were Scotchmen, should take and dispose of them about the country as pedlars.

THE design was approved, and succeeded ; for in less than three months the whole cargo was sold off for near three hundred pounds, one hundred and fifty of which coming to Thurot's share, he made the best of his way to Edinburgh, where having equipped himself like a gentleman, he was determined to make the best of his way to France.

BUT it was some time before he was to visit his native country ; Mr. V—— a gentleman of French extraction in Edinburgh, who was a merchant and used frequently to send vessels from Edinburgh to London, wanted a master for one of his little sloops, and having seen Thurot, who passed for a seafaring captain, and Mr. V—— by his pronunciation of the
English

English Language, finding out that he was a Frenchman made him the offer of it.

THUROT did not hesitate a moment about the acceptance of it: they struck up a bargain and the following week the Anie of Edinburgh, Thurot master, bound with linnen for London, set sail for the River Thames, where she arrived safe, but never returned, being burnt in the river with many others by some pitch taking fire in a neighbouring warehouse; and Thurot having given an account of his trust to his employer's factor, fixed himself in London, taking lodgings in Paddington, where the author of these memoirs by mere accident got acquainted with him.

FROM the year one thousand seven hundred and forty-eight, to the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two, Captain Thurot was going continually back and forward between France and England, and spent great part of his time in London, going by his real name. As I have said before, he took up his first residence in Paddington, where he lived at the house of an apothecary, and always appeared like a gentleman.

IN this place I have been in company with him many times, and as he was a man of a remarkable free temper, he used frequently to entertain two or three of his more intimate acquaintance with the recital of his adventures.

I never

I never knew any man that had a better natural understanding ; he spoke English perfectly well, scarcely with the accent of a foreigner, and had a great share of the Irish language, which he acquired while he lived among the people of that nation.

He sung agreeably, played upon the German flute, the trumpet and French horn : but the chief bent of his inclinations leaned towards navigation and fortification : he had always some little plans, purely the efforts of his own uninformed genius, relative to those arts about him, which he was constantly shewing to his companions ; and never seemed so thoroughly happy as when he got with people who had a smattering of the above-mentioned sciences. The last time he was in England he lived in a court in Carey-street, Lincolns-Inn-Fields, and was then instructed in the mathematics by one Mr. Donnelly an Irish gentleman, famous for his knowledge and abilities in mathematical studies.

THERE is a circumstance relative to Thurot's behaviour while he was in England, which will serve to throw a great light upon the real character of the man ; and I know it to be fact :

He used frequently to go to a club, which was held every Monday night somewhere about the Seven Dials, and consisted totally of foreigners, mostly of Frenchmen : some of these gentlemen took it in their head one evening

evening most grossly to abuse the English and Irish, calling them every contemptuous name, which liquor and ill-manners could suggest. Thurot listened to them for some time with a good deal of patience; till at length, finding they intended to set no bounds to their insolence, he very calmly got up, and seizing the two which sat next to him, each by the nose, without saying a syllable he lead them to the door, put them out, and bolted it after them; then returning to his seat; come gentlemen, said he, let us drink about, and call another subject.

He was extremely punctual in his engagements and payments, and when he found his money near spent, he designed returning to his own country and commence a trading captain: He did so, withdrawing from Paddington all of a sudden, and we did not see any thing of him for four or five months, when I by accident heard that he was then commander of a ship in the river bound from Dunkirk, and that he lodged in Shadwell.

In this place he lived with a woman who passed for his wife, and rented a house for three years, during which time he never failed of running over two or three times a year between London and Calais, Dunkirk, &c.

It having been strongly reported, that there was an English woman with him during

ring all his grand and last voyage at sea, I imagined, if there was any truth at all in the story, that she who lived with him at Shadwell must be the person. I therefore took some pains to enquire who she was, and find, that this woman did really go to France with him; and she either was actually the wife, or had before been the trull of one of his sailors, who was a half French and half Englishman.

HE had an extreme inclination to be made a Free Mason; he was accordingly admitted in a lodge here: the consequence of this, I am assured by undoubted authority, was the following occurrence:

DURING his late voyage, soon after his little Squadron had put out to sea, they met an English merchantman, laden with rum and brandy from the West Indies. It will be needless to say, that she made but a trifling resistance: in fact, she almost instantly struck; and the lieutenant of Thurot's ship was sent to bring the captain on board.

THIS man was a Free Mason, and according to the custom with that fraternity, made certain signs which is known by them all in common, in order to find if any among the enemy were of the order. Thurot instantly perceived and answered him; however he did not then take any farther notice, but asked the captain what his cargo consisted of; the

D

sailors

sailors were rejoiced when they heard of the unfortunate booty. But Thurot leaving his prisoner in the cabin, went up upon deck, and calling all his people about him, said :

“ GENTLEMEN ! this is the first prize we have taken, and I heartily give you joy of it : yet it is but a trifling one, and when divided among us all will not be worth naming. Besides, gentlemen, we go to conquer the enemy’s country, not to seize her paultry merchandise ; and by my discourse with the unhappy man below, who is the owner as well as master of the vessel (which was really the case) I find if he loses it, his ruin is infallible ; let us then scorn to take this small booty, return it to him, and look after better.” Here there was some murmuring : “ Well then, gentlemen, said he, since you do not relish my proposal, be easy ; I give my honour, out of my own pocket to pay every man his dividend of this prize, and will let the vessel go.” Upon this the sailors were overpowered by the noble generosity of the captain. The poor Free-Mason got his cargo safe, and a handsome present from Thurot into the bargain.

THE last time Thurot was in England I had not the pleasure of seeing him, being obliged to be in Wales upon some particular affairs ; but I presently heard from him while he was in London, and also after he went to settle at Boulogne with his father.

It seems the early taint which he received from the Irishman, Farrel, who was a most infamous smuggler himself, still stuck to him; and indeed I think it was the only thing to be alledged against him: this inclined him to hearken to a French gang, who offered to take him for their captain. He communicated it to his father, who strongly dissuaded him against it; but Thurot was one of those men who feared nothing: and though the smuggling trade is in France the most daring and dangerous that can be imagined, he followed the bent of his own will. It must be owned indeed that his great good sense and moderation kept his bravoës from committing any very mischievous outrages.

He left off coming to England in the year 1752, and the very next year being in France, I saw him; he then, without any reluctance, told me the bottom he had embarked on. I represented to him in the strongest manner I could, the hazardous life he had taken up; but he laughed at me.

His chief place of residence was at Boulogne, where his trade was kept secret; tho' indeed had it been known, he was so great a favourite with the towns-people, I believe he might have passed his time securely enough. He was also frequently at Calais, Dunkirk, &c. and I was credibly informed, during his short reign, as king of the smugglers, he did not export and import clandestinely,

tinely, less than twenty thousand pounds worth of goods *per year*.

BUT here, as he had before in Ireland, he added indiscretion to vice; and to say the truth, prosperity, I believe, and success had lulled him so far, as it does most who are in unjustifiable causes, that he thought justice either would not, or dare not see him; but he was mistaken; I think indeed, as it has happened, she had recourse to her scales only, and not to her sword.

THE son of Madam Tallard, his godmother, whom we have before made mention of, was president of the province; and it being well known that smugglers did infest those parts, though the government could not point out the very individual delinquents, he had orders to be very vigilant, and if possible to put a stop to their mal-practices.

HE performed his duty punctually, and two or three of his mermidons being set upon the watch, it was not long before they wormed themselves so far into the secret, that they had not only intelligence of the meeting-places of the smugglers, but of every person concerned in the trade.

Monfieur Tallard took his measures accordingly; in one place he seized a whole covey of them together, and at the same time arrested several others; among the first was poor Thurot.

IN writing memoirs of the life of a private person, who till within a short space of time, was never employed in any one interesting scene of action, there cannot be expected those turns and adventures, which are so agreeable in a novel, neither can it be thought, that his ordinary employments should afford matter for a large volume; all I mean to do here is to set down a few occurrences, which happened within the sphere of my own knowledge, which though in themselves are insignificant, become of consequence, in as much as they may serve to give some idea of a man, who has ingrossed a great deal of the attention of the world, and particularly, raised the curiosity of this nation.

THUROT's natural inclination to fortification, gave him a desire to see all our buildings of that sort, which I believe he did, walking to most of those within thirty miles of London, during the frequent recesses between his several passages; and I have often heard him say, how easy a matter it would be for to invade these kingdoms, though neither he nor I at that time had any thought of his being one day that very invader himself.

THERE was eight months at one time, between his leaving England and his returning to it, occasioned by some disagreement between his owners: during that time I received

ceived several letters from him, but they are all destroyed except the following :

Dunkirk, June 5, 1752.

S I R,

I Find it is a very selfish motive that makes me write to you, my design being to extort an answer. If you had so much disinterested charity as to write without expecting a reply, I should certainly receive the favour with the utmost gratitude and modesty. However it is well you indulge my talent of impertinence, and never strictly insist upon common sense.

I have already told you, that my affairs would oblige me to remain on this side of the water till next summer. New oppositions every day arise to my returning to England: but I hope to surmount them all, and once more enjoy the company of my good friends in Cateaton-Street, among which I chiefly reckon yourself.

I am very much concerned to hear you have been out of order, yet was far from thinking your letter the effect of the spleen: for I am really persuaded it was written in one of your gayest humours. To a mind turned like yours, the thoughts of death can have very few terrors. I fancy you will be pleased with the lines which a gentleman of our country, as I have been told, ordered to be

be written over his closet door. I know you like verses, and therefore write them :

Las d'esperer et de me plaindre,
De l'amour des grands et du sort,
C'est ici que j'attens la mort

Sous la defierer, ou la craindre.

C'est bien le caractère, le plus beau, et le plus rare qu'on peut avoir : but I beg pardon for writing French, and yet I can hardly think you will be able to make out my English.

My letter is of a convenient length ; therefore with my most humble service to ———

Je suis, &c. &c.

It was agreed between us, that we should write nothing but English to each other, in order to perfect him in the language : and this letter is, I think, no very bad instance of his skill and understanding.

It is needless to expatiate on the distressful circumstance of confinement to a person of Thurot's volatile disposition. After being examined by Monsieur Tallard, he was sent to Dunkirk, and there confined in the common prison ; but his father and some other friends had such power over the good-natured magistrate, that he promised to do his utmost
to

to save Thurot's life ; whom he was himself also very well inclined towards, having been his playfellow when a boy, and perfectly remembering the regard which his mother had for him.

THE other smugglers were now every day breaking upon the wheel, and hanging, while our unfortunate hero lay snug in his dungeon : from this place I had the following letter from him :

Dunkirk, December 12, 1754.

Dear Sir,

THOUGH it is not without some pain that I date a letter to you from this miserable place, yet I thought I should be inexcusable, was I not to inform so good a friend of my situation ; which, tho' wretched enough God knows, I dare swear you will be pleased to hear, is not likely to close with a shameful death : my good friends seeming to consider every thing but my deserts. I do assure you I now heartily detest and despise myself for the wicked and ridiculous part I have acted, and sincerely wish I had taken your good advice ; but I am willing to think Providence orders every thing for the best. Pen and ink being allowed me is a great favour ; but at present I will not trespass on you farther, than to assure you that

I am, &c.

SHORTLY

SHORTLY after this, he was commanded up to Paris, with an intent that he should make discoveries, that might prevent the robberies of the smugglers for the future. He remained there in prison several months, but during his examinations convinced some people in power, that should the war break out with England, which, was at that time contriving, and in the form of an invasion too, Mons. Thurot might be rendered a serviceable man.

THIS consideration, together with Mons. Tallard's interest, not only procured him his liberty, but the command of one of the King's sloops, and his father got a pension of five hundred livres per annum, for what services his son might do his country.

AFTER this I had never any correspondence with him : but know, that finding in the beginning of the war that his sloop was not likely to be much employed, and the thoughts of invading England was laid aside, he desired permission to go on board a Dunkirk privateer, in which he commanded till the beginning of the summer of the memorable year one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine.

THEN it was that the French ministry, as the dernier resort, determined to invade this island, and make us feel the force of Gallic indignation : *most terrible indeed !*

THUROT was pitched upon as a man, rather to frighten us, than do any real mischief. He spoke English, he knew both the British and Irish channels, he would be of great use in putting us in confusion, while Conflans destroyed us.

THE scheme was; that Thurot should go to Ireland, while Conflans was here; in order to make that kingdom, easy enough to take an alarm, so anxious in preserving her own safety, and so full of her own danger, that she could not think of sending any succour to her neighbour.

THUROT having got his orders and every thing ready, sailed out of Dunkirk harbour, on the evening of the twenty-second of October, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine, with the following ships in his little squadron: Marshal Belleisle of fifty-four guns, two frigates of thirty-six each, one of twenty-six, and a cutter. He sailed in a hard gale at South West; arrived at Ostend the next day, and the same evening sailed again northward. He had fifteen hundred land-men on board, most of whom were pressed and picked up in prisons. The officers (such as they were) went on board with the greatest reluctance.

THE first port he made was that of Gottenburgh, from whence the two following extracts of original letters; one from Captain Gorrel, to his owners at Liverpool; the

the other from Liverpool, will serve to give us a perfect insight to his situation :

Gottenburgh, November 3, 1759.

I Wrote to you from hence the twenty-seventh *ult.* and then told you how I was blocked up by Mons. Thurot, with five frigates and one cutter : We lay in the road three days, during which time they rowed round and round our ship, and took particular notice of us : I also took all the notice I could of them ; two frigates lay ahead of us, two a-stern, and one a little within the rocks to watch the ships, &c. So far as I can learn and observe, Thurot's fleet are in want of many things, such as anchors and cables ; for by all accounts they slipped them when they left Dunkirk. They have also employed all the bakers in Gottenburgh, and have bought up all the beef they can meet with. Another cutter is arrived here ; so that now there are two, one of eight guns and the other of ten ; one of which they are now heaving down and cleaning. One of the frigates has her top-mast down, occasioned, I suppose, by something being amiss with her mast. It is most certainly true, that they have a great number of land-forces with them, for they appear on board like bees about a hive ; the number is said here to be two thousand two hundred land soldiers, of several Scotch and

Irish regiments. One of my sailors spoke with some of them in Irish, and was answered in the same language. They have many gentlemen on board, and when on shore make a fine appearance, being full of money. It is whispered about here, that they are designed either for the Highlands of Scotland, or the North of Ireland, and that they will be ready to sail from hence in seven or eight days. They behaved with great complaisance to us when we lay amongst them, but as I did not like my company, we took the first opportunity of leaving them, and are now lying above the Castle: They have taken two brigs, and brought them into this harbour, one they ransomed: her ransom-bill is No. 6. which makes us believe that they have taken six sail. They are all rigged in the same manner as our men of war, with red vanes, long heads to their top-gallant masts, and the top-gallant masts strike abaft, the top-masts with sprit-sail top-sails rigged, and the cutters are rigged the same as our English cutters; and, upon the whole, they appear very like English ships of war. The wind is coming strong again to the westward, which I hope will bring an English fleet to our relief: four of our men of war, I am sure, would be very sufficient to keep them in here, and they might lie very safe at anchor in the road. The Antigua Merchant is ready to sail with
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us for Liverpool, and fifteen for London and Hull."

Liverpool, Dec. 7, 1759.

CAPTAIN Rimmer of the *Gorrell* arrived here from Gottenburgh on Sunday last, farther informs us, that *Monf. Thurot*, with his squadron of five privateer-frigates, and two cutters, left Gottenburgh on the fourteenth *ult.* *Thurot's* frigate, the *Marshal Belleisle*, mounts forty-four guns, *viz.* thirty nine-pounders upon one deck, four eighteen-pounders below, and the rest only quarter-deck and fore-castle guns; she has a black lion-head, appears very ill hogged in the midships, and is painted black and red.—Numb. 2. is a frigate of thirty-two guns, *viz.* twenty-eight nine-pounders on one deck, the rest are quarter-deck and fore-castle-guns; has a yellow lion-head standing remarkably high, is painted yellow and black.—Numb. 3. is a frigate of the same number of guns, painted black, with a large figure-head.—Numb. 4. is a frigate of thirty guns, *viz.* twenty four on the main-deck, and the rest quarter-deck and fore-castle guns; she has a figure-head painted white and yellow, and her sides black and yellow.—Numb. 5. is a frigate of twenty guns on one deck, is painted black and yellow, with a short quarter-deck. The two cutters have long top-gallant-masts, one of them is pierced for ten and the other eight guns, exactly in the English form.

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THE frigates, when they came into Gottenburgh, were very foul, as if come off from a long voyage, and were destitute of many necessaries; had very few seamen on board, but full of land forces, commanded by a Major-General; most of the soldiers were in blue faced with white, and others all white. Whilst they remained at Gottenburgh, nineteen days, they were fully employed in cleaning their ships, getting new top-masts, new rigging for their vessels, victualling and watering; the demand for bread and eatables was so great, that they raised the prices considerably at market, and the Swedes assisted them all in their power; sending them their East-India ships boats to water with, and procuring them cables in lieu of those they had ordered to be made, which would have detained them before finished. During their stay the land and sea officers quarrelled; the former not being acquainted with the place of their destination. On Nov. 6, whilst the French frigates lay in Calf Sound, the Penzance man of war appeared at the mouth of the harbour in company with four or five neutral ships, as she was going up to Elfsneur, and fired a gun to take all ready under convoy, which so affrighted the Frenchmen, that they slipp'd their cables and run up above the castle for security. When they sailed, the commodore and second vessel carried

carried white whifflers or pendants forward, the rest all had red vanes, and they had their steering sails and small sails all ready bent in the shrouds to run away with. Captain Rimmer came out of Gottenburgh two days after Thurot, and is of opinion, by the winds he met with, that they could not reach Scotland, but would be obliged to go to Norway."

AFTER this a thousand false reports were spread of him; but nothing of consequence till his appearance on the coast of Ireland. A full account of which follows:

Carrickfergus, Feb, 21. "On the garrison's observing three frigates coming up under English colours, they concluded they were our own ships, on some expedition; but observing that instead of sailing before the castle, as is usual, they made for Killroot Point; they thought proper to send out Captain Jennings in the King's Boat to reconnoitre; who, on approaching near them, observed them landing with their flat-bottomed boats, which they effected very suddenly. On the captain's return the garrison took the alarm; but alas, they were but two hundred in number, mostly undisciplined recruits, and had three hundred French prisoners to guard. The brave mayor, Willoughby Chaplin, Esq; got the militia under arms, and though asked by
Colonel

Colonel Fleming, the commander in chief, to go into the castle, he bravely refused, and in his own gallant phrase said ; “ He would go out with his dear boys, and meet the poltroons, and have a knock with them :” which he most resolutely did by marching to the Scotch quarters, and lining the hedges, gave them a fire which killed forty-three men of the enemy, and wounded their general in chief, who lived only to sign the articles of capitulation.

It deserves to be remarked, that one of the worthy mayor’s men killed three Frenchmen himself, but stooping over the last (who appeared to be a person of distinction) was unfortunately shot through the head. But what makes the whole affair the more surprising, and we hope is a happy presage of our shortly chastising their insolence, is, that the brave stout lads (as their worthy leader calls them) lost but five men, although they were obliged, as they were marching out to meet the enemy, to send back forty of their company to escort the French prisoners to Belfast. After all they made a retreating fight of it back again into the castle. But as to the French, on their landing they immediately seized the house of Mr. Brice of Killroot, and made him, his wife, &c. prisoners, and sent him on board their ships ; they likewise seized Castle Dobbs, and made prisoners the squire and his lady, and a colonel who
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was on visit at the house ; they pillaged both houses of every thing ; they likewise got 'Squire Ennis into their hands ; but what even affects the publick is, that they have carried off every yard of linnen that was in the possession of Mr. James Allen, one of the most considerable linnen-drapers in the North. They took the gentlemen's horses, and drew ten pieces of cannon to the Scotch Quarter-Bank, where they fixed a battery, which played on the half-moon and gate of the castle without intermission. There were no provisions in the castle, but what the mayor ordered in on the first alarm, from his own house, being the beef, pork, and meal of his own private family : nor was there one cannon on a carriage, nor proper ammunition in the place, and yet the brave garrison, who were but an handful, held out till four o'clock in the morning of the ensuing day after being attacked, when they were obliged to capitulate, and become prisoners of war. They have got the Colonel, the Mayor, Dean Benson, 'Squire Wilson, Mr. Spaight, &c.

ON the receiving this melancholy news, it is impossible to express with what alacrity and chearfulness every one able to carry a gun flew to arms. There are already more than three thousand five hundred militia in Belfast ; who march down every day to Woodburn, within a mile of them, where they wait for
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their coming out, but they keep themselves close, and are intrenched up to the chin ; it was with the greatest difficulty that lieutenant-general Strode has withheld his men till the artillery arrives, (which is coming from Charlemount) from rushing into the town, and attacking them sword in hand.

This night General Fitzwilliams, Lord Newbattle, &c. with a party of the light horse, arrived in this town, who are to be followed by three thousand troops to-morrow with a train of artillery ; so that the country need not be under the least apprehensions from such a parcel of wretches, who have been so long on board, and whom the most exaggerating accounts does not make to exceed one thousand men.

ON the arrival of the news in this town, Cornet Scott, Mr. William Ogle, Mr. Corry, and the other gentlemen of this place, immediately assembled at the market-house, and got the militia under arms, and though we, as a maritime town, dare not send off our militia for fear of a surprise, from an enemy that must be desperate ; yet the gentlemen earnestly recommended to any young gentlemen who would chuse to do so, to go and assist our brethren in this critical conjuncture, and immediately Mr. Thomas Warring, Mr. Andrew Thompson, Mr. James Ogle, Mr. John Hutchinson, Mr. Wier, Mr. Boyde, Mr. Braddock, and many more marched off,
and

and were followed by above eighty brave fellows : it would be doing injustice to merit not to mention Mr. Adam Maitland on this important occasion, he has exerted himself in an extraordinary manner, and was as far as Drogheda yesterday, to solicit arms, &c. from the government, and stopped on hearing the succours were on their march ; loyal 'Squire Johnson of Treymont, went through this country from house to house, and collected together every one who had a weapon whom he entertained at his own house, and conducted the French prisoners into this town at their head, together with a party of gentlemen who went to Ban-Bridgeto receive them; the same worthy gentleman marched to-day at the head of his intrepid lads to Carrickfergus.

I have no more to add, but confess it is a hard task to do justice to the merit of every party vying with each other, who shall exert themselves most upon this important occasion ; the Roman catholick gentlemen have offered to give their wives and children as hostages of their loyalty at this time, and offered to march, if the government will please to entrust them with arms, along with their fellow subjects against the common enemy ; I can assure the public of the truth of the following, *viz.* That the priest of this parish offered his own horse, bridle and saddle, together with daily pay, to any young protestant lad that would march down to Carrickfergus.

ON the first intelligence of the landing of the French, nothing could exceed the alacrity of the Rich-Hill, Market-Hill, Armagh, Lurgan, and Warringstown militia, who immediately marched for Belfast; the Rich-Hill militia were conducted by the honourable colonel Richardson of the said town.

WE hear they have broken down one of the long bridges of Belfast, to prevent any surprise from the county of Down side, as the enemy might easily pass over the bay from Carrick to Holliwood, and surprise them from that quarter; the gentlemen of Belfast behave in an extraordinary manner on this occasion, the most considerable of them takes the meanest militia man into his own house, and entertains him at his own table.

THE Rev. Mr. Cherry of Taudragee, has set a pattern worthy of imitation, who has marched down at the head of sixty brave fellows of his congregation; and the Rev. Mr. Michael Henry, of Drumbanagher has the same number ready to march, only waiting for arms; and the Rev. Mr. Hacket of the said parish, is industriously encouraging the youths of his congregation, to embark in the same glorious cause.

THE following passages will set the wisdom, bravery, and at the same time consternation of the Irish in a proper light:

Dublin,

Dublin, Feb. 23, 1760.

YESTERDAY morning a little before eleven o'clock, an account was received that a body of French, supposed to be about a thousand men, were landed at Carrickfergus, on Thursday morning. Immediately upon receipt of this intelligence, his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant gave orders for the assembling with the utmost expedition at Newry, four regiments of infantry, *viz.* Pole's, Anstruther's, Sandford's, and Sebright's; and the three regiments of dragoons, *viz.* Mostyn's, Yorke's, and Whitley's; and his Grace made no doubt, that should the French be hardy enough to hazard themselves at any distance from their ships, the troops he should be able to get together in a very few days, will be more than sufficient to protect the country from any violence, and to drive them out of the kingdom. And this morning, at half past seven, a farther account was received, That lieutenant-colonel Jennings had suffered himself, with four companies of major-general Strobe's regiment under his command at Carrickfergus, to be made prisoners of war: And that, on the twenty second in the morning, about eight o'clock, a flag of truce came to Belfast, and made a demand of several articles of provision, and other necessaries, to be delivered that day at two o'clock, promising

promising to pay for them; and threatening, in case of refusal, to burn Carrickfergus, and afterwards to come up and burn Belfast also; with which demands the gentlemen of Belfast thought it best to comply. The French prisoners of war had been removed from Carrickfergus and Belfast to Lisburn.

Dublin, Feb. 24. This evening his Grace the Lord-Lieutenant received the following letter from Major-General Strode, dated at Belfast, Feb. 23. 1760, at six in the evening, *viz.*

“Information of Benjamin Hall, Lieutenant and adjutant of my regiment, who, this moment, arrived here, on his parole, from Carrickfergus, in order to get provisions for the officers and soldiers of my regiment there, says, that on the twenty-first instant, three ships appeared off the isle of Magee, standing in shore, for the Bay of Carrickfergus; and at eleven o'clock came to an anchor, about two miles and a half to the north-east part of the castle, and within musquet-shot of the shore at Killrute-point. At this time the small number of troops belonging to the garrison were at exercise, about half a mile on the road to Belfast; and at a quarter after eleven o'clock, the guard was turned out, made up and marched off, to relieve that on the French prisoners in the castle; the rest of the men continued in the field of exercise, where an account was soon brought

brought, that the three ships, just come to an anchor, had taken and detained two fishing boats, and, with them and several others were plying on and off betwixt the shore and the ships ; on which, immediate orders were sent to the castle for both guards to continue under arms, and double centries over the French prisoners, and be particularly strict and watchful over them, till such time as they could be satisfied, whether they were friends or enemies ; though, at the same time, a strong report prevailed with some, that it was an English frigate, and two store-ships : but to be convinced what they were, after the troops had assembled in the market-place, the said Lieutenant Hall, went off with a reconnoitring party, and took post on a rising ground, where he could plainly perceive eight boats landing armed men, and that they drew out in detachments, and took post on the dykes, hedges, and all the rising grounds, from whence they could have most extensive views ; upon which he gave the necessary orders to his non-commission officers, and men, to have a watchful eye of their approaches, and to take particular care that they did not get round them, by going at the foot of the hill undiscovered : in order to prevent which, he posted them himself, and told them, as soon as ever the advanced guard came within shot, to fire at them, and continue so to

to do, until they repulsed them, or if necessitated to retreat, he likewise pointed that out to them, with orders to take every opportunity, on advantage of the ground, in their retreat, to retard the enemy's approach, and to be sure to keep a communication with the town as much as possible; and on this he immediately went to the town, and acquainted Lieutenant Colonel Jennings, where he found him with the troops on the parade, who immediately ordered detachments to be made to defend the gates of the town, and all the avenues leading thereto. Soon after which the reconnoitring party retired, after having spent all their ammunition; during which time, the Lieutenant Colonel and chief magistrate of the town, sent off the sheriff, and Mr. Mucklewaine (who is captain of the militia of the corporation) with orders to take off the French prisoners of war, and convey them with all speed to Belfast, where they were to receive further orders from me. By this time the enemy were in full march for the town, which he computed to be near one thousand men; and two or three straggling hussars, on horses they had picked up after landing, attempted to enter the gates; but, on the first fire retired, but were soon supported by parties of foot, who attacked both the North and Scotch gates, as also the garden walls of Lord Donnegall, who were repulsed also, and kept back as long as the
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men had ammunition; on which Col. Jennings ordered the whole to retire to the castle; which he had sufficient time to do, as at this time the enemy was a little checked from our fire; and would have been more so, had the men had ammunition. Before the gates of the castle were shut, they made their appearance in the market-place; and then it was in his opinion the destruction of the enemy would have commenced, had it not been still (he begs leave again to observe) the then dreadful want of ammunition, notwithstanding the supply of powder they had a few days before, from Belfast, by my order, but were in want of ball, and even time, if they had that, to make them up; from which, the enemy, finding our fire so cool, attacked the gates sword in hand, which, from the battering of the shot on both sides, the bolts were knock'd back, and the gates opened, and the enemy marched in; but Lieutenant Colonel Jennings, Lord Wallingford, Captain Bland, Lieutenant Ellis, with some gentlemen, and about fifty men, repulsed the enemy, and beat them back. Here it was he saw great resolution in a few Irish boys, who defended the gate, after it was opened, with their bayonets; and those from the Half Moon, after their ammunition was gone, threw stones and bricks. Had this attack of the enemy been supported with any

degree of courage, they must certainly have succeeded in it, but they retired back under cover, leaving the gates open with our men in the front of it, which gave them a short time to consider what was the best to be done ; first to see the men's ammunition, which, if they had had any, would have certainly failed, and even so without it, had not Colonel Jennings, and all the officers thought the enterprize too hazardous. Then they considered, if the gate could be defended, the breach in the castle wall could not, it being near fifty feet long ; and, having but a short time to deliberate ; all agreed, a parly should be beat, and Lieutenant Hall sent out to know on what terms they might surrender : which was accordingly done ; and on his going out, found the greatest part of the enemy under shelter of the old walls and houses before the castle-gate ; and after the usual ceremony, demanded of the Commandant, (the General being wounded) what terms would be given the troops on their surrender, and at the same time sent the drum to call Colonel Jennings out of the castle, in order to treat with the French Commandant on articles of capitulation, which, he says, as well as can remember were as follows : *viz.*

“ Colonel Jennings demanded, that the troops should march out with all the honours of war, and the officers to be on their parole
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in Ireland, and not be sent prisoners to France; the soldiers also to stay in Ireland, and that an equal number of French prisoners should be sent to France, within one month, or as soon after as ships could be got ready for that purpose. *Granted.*

That the castle of Carrickfergus should not be demolished, or any of the stores destroyed or taken out of it. *Granted.*

That the town and county of Carrickfergus should not be plundered or burnt, on condition the Mayor and Corporation furnished the French troops with necessary provisions.

Granted.

This, as well as he can remember, was the verbal articles agreed on, though, on writing them, the French Commandant, after consulting his principal officers, declared, he could not by any means, answer to his master, the French King, granting to his Britannic-Majesty the stores in the castle, which he insisted upon; and Colonel Jennings, to his great grief, had it not in his power to refuse, declaring solemnly, at the same time, with a grave countenance, that he had rather have been buried in the ruins. To which the French Commandant replied, that he could not insert it in the articles of capitulation, yet he would give his word and honour, and did so, that, if there was nothing of great value in the castle, belonging to the king,

besides powder, he would not touch it, (which there really was not) but how far he will keep his promise, is not yet known. Likewise the magistrates of Carrickfergus, not furnishing the French with necessary provisions, they plundered the town, declaring, it was their own fault, as they were convinced they had it in their own power to supply them, as they had found enough in the town afterwards.

MR. Hall further informs me, that he has discovered by some of the French, there was a disagreement betwixt their General, and Captain Thurot, the General being for the attack of Carrick, and Thurot for landing at the Whitehouse, and attacking Belfast. He likewise judges the frigates to be, one of forty guns, the other two about twenty each.

LIEUTENANT Hall begs leave to present his duty to your Grace, and hopes your Grace will excuse any inaccuracy, that may be in his description, as he was no ways provided with any papers, but his memory, and often interrupted by numbers of gentlemen of the militia, who were crowding perpetually in the room to receive orders.

I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Belfast, Feb. 23,
1760.

My Lord, &c.

WILL. STRODE.

BESIDES this, I do not think there is any thing to be depended upon that we have heard, every one knows of the engagement which ensued between his Majesty's ships and those of Thurot's little squadron, upon his leaving Ireland; and of this engagement no account can be so faithful, as that to be found in the following

Copy of a letter from Capt. Elliott, of his Majesty's ship *Æolus*, to Mr. Cleveland, dated in Ramsey Bay, in the Isle of Man, the 29th of February, 1760.

PLEASE to acquaint the Right Hon. my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty That on the 24th instant I received information at Kinsale, from his Grace the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, that there were three ships of the enemy's at Carrickfergus. The same evening I sailed with his Majesty's ship under my command, together with the *Pallas* and *Brilliant*, in quest of them. I made the entrance of Carrickfergus on the evening of the 26th, but could not get in, the wind being contrary, and very bad weather. On the 28th at four in the morning, we got sight of them, and gave chase. About nine I got up along-side their commodore (off the Isle of Man) and in a few minutes after the action became general, and lasted about an hour and half, when they all three struck their colours.

lours. They are, the Marshal Bellisle of forty-four guns, and five hundred and forty-five men, including troops, M. Thurot commander, who is killed; the La Blonde of thirty-two guns, and four hundred men, commanded by Capt. La Kayce; and the Terpsichore of twenty-six guns and three hundred men, commanded by Capt. Des-raudaais. I put into this road to repair the ships, who are all much disabled in their masts and rigging, the Marshal Bellisle in particular, who lost her boltsprit, mizen-mast and main-yard in the action; and it was with great difficulty we prevented her sinking.

It is with the greatest pleasure I acquaint their Lordships, that the officers and men of his Majesty's ships behaved remarkably well on this occasion.

I shall use the greatest dispatch in getting the ships refitted, and propose returning to Plymouth, or some other port in England, as soon as possible, if I do not receive their Lordships directions before the ships are got ready.

INCLOSED is an account of the killed and wounded on board his Majesty's ships.

I am, &c.

JOHN ELLIOTT.

		killed	wounded
Æolus	—	4	15
Pallas	—	1	2
Brilliant	—	0	11

N. B. I find it impossible to ascertain the number of the enemy killed and wounded, but by the best accounts I can get, they amount to about three hundred.

As to Thurot's person, it was rather robust than genteel, and he was rather comely than handsome; very brown, and extremely florid: he was about six or seven and thirty years old, and had a very small scar under his left eye, which was rather an advantage to him than otherwise. This I think is a faithful picture of him, unless he was much altered from the time I saw him, till he was killed.

THERE were several bales of merchandize found on board his ships, particularly linens; however I am well assured, that he paid for every thing he had in Ireland, as well as he was able; but it might, and no doubt was, a thing impossible to restrain the rapacity of his people.

He behaved with the greatest bravery imaginable; had lost one of his arms near an hour, and received his death wound above half an hour before he quitted the deck.

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WHILE he lived, he insisted on the ship being fought; but as soon as the breath was out of his body, the whole squadron struck.

NOTHING could equal the courage of Captain Elliot, his Majesty's commander, but his humanity; he would not suffer any thing to be touched in Thurot's ship, made sacred by his dead body: Alexander himself did not more bewail the death of Darius, than Captain Elliot did the loss of Thurot.

As soon as the shattered ships got to the Isle of Man, Thurot's body was taken on shore, and embalmed; after which he was buried with all those military honours which his courage and conduct so well deserved; and Capt. Elliot gave all his officers liberty to attend his funeral, himself walking in the procession.

THUS fell the brave Thurot!—a mirror of the fickle state of human affairs; and an example to all men, particularly those in a military capacity, by what steps to gain the height of favour among friends, and respect among enemies.

F I N I S.



Distance from	Ger	Eng	Distance from	Ger	Eng
Berlin to Breslau	40 1/2	187 1/2	Ratisbon to Berlin	60	277 1/2
Dresden	20	92	Breslau	67	310
Egra	43 1/2	203	Dresden	39	180
Leipzig	21	97	Egra	57 1/2	81
Magdeburg	16	74	Leipzig	39	180 1/2
Prague	37	171	Magdeburg	55	254 1/2
Ratisbon	60	277 1/2	Prague	32	148
Vienna	79	362 1/2	Vienna	50	231 1/2

Distance from	Ger	Eng	Distance from	Ger	Eng
Prague to Berlin	37	171	Vienna to Berlin	79	365 1/2
Breslau	31	143 1/2	Breslau	48	224
Dresden	17	78 1/2	Dresden	59	273
Egra	23	106 1/2	Egra	58	267 1/2
Leipzig	28	129 1/2	Leipzig	70	323 1/2
Magdeburg	40	185	Magdeburg	88	387 1/2
Ratisbon	32	148	Prague	42	194 1/2
Vienna	42	194 1/2	Ratisbon	50	231 1/2

